



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
Mike Johns (602) 514-7566

MAN SENTENCED TO 15 ½ YEARS FOR KILLING A CAB DRIVER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that Dale Lester Kisto, of Sacaton, Arizona was sentenced to 186 months in prison after pleading guilty to Theft of a Motor Vehicle with Intent to Cause Death or Serious Bodily Harm, Resulting in Death, Aiding and Abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2119(3) and 18 U.S.C. §2.

Based on the information presented at sentencing, on June 8, 2000, Dale Kisto and another individual called for a taxi cab in the city of Casa Grande, Arizona. The taxi driver, Daniel Sheehan, responded to the call and was never seen alive again. His skull was recovered in a cotton field near Stanfield, Arizona in September, 2000. The victim died as a result of blunt force trauma, and Kisto and the other individual were seen shortly after the killing occurred driving in the taxi cab. The victim's blood was spattered on the rear quarter of the taxi, as well as on Kisto's clothing.

On September 27, 2000, an indictment was filed against Dale Kisto in the U.S. District Court in Tucson, Arizona, charging Theft of a Motor Vehicle with Intent to Cause Death or Serious Bodily Harm, Resulting in Death, Aiding and Abetting, for killing Daniel Sheehan. On October 18, 2001, Kisto pleaded guilty to the indictment pursuant to a written plea agreement with a range of 96-186 months.

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Today at the sentencing hearing, Dale Kisto received a sentence of 186 months, representing an upward departure from the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. United States District Judge Frank R. Zapata presided over the sentencing hearing.

The sentencing hearing was handled by Julia A. Maldonado Soto, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-01264-TUC-FRZ
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